RESOLUTION 2019-025: NOACA BOARD SUPPORT FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN OHIO

Board of Directors June 14, 2019



ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is asked to consider Resolution 2019-025, which expresses support for increased funding for public transportation in the SFY 2020-2021 Ohio Operating Budget

PREVIOUS ACTION

In March 2019, the Board adopted a resolution supporting increased transit funding as part of the SFY 2020-2021 Transportation Budget

External Affairs Committee directed development of another resolution of support prior to enactment of the SFY 2020-2021 Operating Budget



- March 8 NOACA Board resolution supported increased revenue for transportation, in the SFY 2020-2021 Transportation Budget
- Resolution 2019-013 also recommended funding public transportation to at least the \$120 million goal contained in the 2015 ODOT Transit Needs Study





Transportation Budget, signed into law on April 3, commits to funding public transit at \$70 million

- Up from the current \$33 million level
- Actual funding deferred to the upcoming state Operating Budget, due to be finalized by June 30.





Operating Budget legislation (HB 166):

- Includes \$70 million for transit
- Passed the Ohio House and pending before the Senate





At April External Affairs Committee meeting, chair directed NOACA Board to send resolution requesting that the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor ensure:

- The previous commitment to fund public transportation at \$70 million annually is approved in the Operating Budget, and
- Continued search for additional resources for public transit





UPDATE

- New development: An additional \$6.5 million, proposed by the Governor and appropriated by the House for rural transit and elderly assistance programs, was removed by Senate
- These dollars are in addition to the \$70 million committed in the Transportation Budget
- Loss will hurt both rural and urban transit agencies
- OPTA urging Senate to restore these funds
- Board may wish to amend today's resolution to include this additional \$6.5 million

UPDATE

PROPOSED ODOT TRANSIT FUNDING:

\$13 million GRF: Rural Transit Program

Urban Transit Program

Elderly & Disabled Fare Assistance Program

Specialized Transportation Program

ODOT administration

\$63.5 million GRF: Urban Transit Program (\$14.8 M)

Ohio Transit Partnership Program (\$48.7)

\$76.5 million TOTAL

UPDATE

Board may further wish to stipulate that ODOT allocate \$63.5 million (previous flex funds) using:

- Federal Transit Authority (FTA) formulas, based on ridership, population, and other applicable metrics
- National Transit Database (NTD) verified data and metrics
- Equitable and consistent local match requirements to provide equity to transit systems that raise and use local dollars, and not penalize those who've made significant local investments



FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact from adoption of this resolution.



NEXT STEPS

Once approved, NOACA staff will transmit copies of this resolution to members of the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor of Ohio



ACTION

Approval of Resolution 2019-025, which expresses the NOACA Board's support for funding transit in the state Operating Budget at the \$70 million level, as previously committed to by the General Assembly and Governor of Ohio in the Transportation Budget



Motion
Second
Discussion
Put the Question





ACTION

Action to modify Resolution 2019-025, to change the recommended funding level for public transportation from \$70 million to \$76.5 million, inclusive of the additional \$6.5 million included in the House version of HB 166, the SFY 2020-2021 Ohio Operating Budget



Motion
Second
Discussion
Put the Question







NOACA will **STRENGTHEN** regional cohesion, **PRESERVE** existing infrastructure, and **BUILD** a sustainable multimodal transportation system to **SUPPORT** economic development and **ENHANCE** quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

